

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Rocky Flats Field Office

DATE: JAN 19 2000

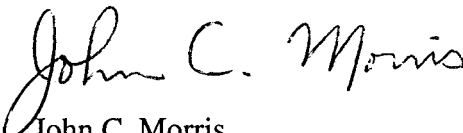
REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AMEI:ER/WM:JCM:01246

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summary

TO: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance

This memorandum delivers to your office the Rocky Flats Field Office's "Annual NEPA Planning Summary," in accordance with Department of Energy Order 451.1A.

Please contact Reg Tyler at (303) 966-5927 with any questions.


John C. Morris
NEPA Compliance Officer

Enclosure

cc w/Enc.:
R. Tyler, ER/WM, RFFO
R. DiSalvo, OCC, RFFO
S. Nesta, K-H
Public Reading Rooms
Administrative Record



ADMIN RECORD
SW-A-003729

ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE

ANNUAL NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PLANNING SUMMARY

January 2000

DOE Order 451.1A (National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program) requires the Rocky Flats Field Office to submit an "Annual NEPA Planning Summary" to the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health. This document is submitted in compliance with that requirement.

The Planning Summary consists of three sections:

- Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities;
- Upcoming Environmental Assessments, summarizing the subject matter, cost, and schedule of any environmental assessments expected to start during the next 12 months; and
- Upcoming Environmental Impact Statements, summarizing the subject matter, cost, and schedule of any environmental impact statements expected to start during the next 24 months.

Cost and schedule information for completion of each NEPA review identified is provided within the discussion of each review.

The Order also requires that every three years a field organization include in its NEPA planning summary an evaluation of whether a site-wide environmental impact statement (SWEIS) would facilitate future NEPA compliance efforts. Additionally, DOE NEPA regulations [10 CFR Part 1021.330(d), issued April 24, 1992] include a requirement that a Supplement Analysis (SA) (as discussed at 10 CFR Part 1021.314(c)) be conducted at least every five years to determine whether an existing site-wide EIS is adequate or whether a new or supplemental EIS should be prepared. In FY 97, RFETS addressed the need for a SWEIS. In accordance with these requirements, an updated evaluation is being conducted in FY 2000; the background and process for this evaluation are described under "Status of NEPA Compliance Activities."

The Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA) specifies that closure activities at the Site "will be conducted as CERCLA removal actions." This is consistent with the Secretarial Policy (1994) and eliminates the need to prepare separate environmental assessment(s) on CERCLA actions, through incorporation of NEPA values in the decision or planning documents for the related activities. Review of such documents is conducted for appropriate inclusion of NEPA values. Environmental impacts of activities that cannot undergo functionally equivalent NEPA review through CERCLA (such as activities under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit and the siting, construction, and operation of treatment, storage and disposal facilities that support waste management) are subject to a separate NEPA review process.

Status of NEPA Compliance Activities

A draft Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) was prepared in 1996 to analyze the environmental impacts associated with the Site's mission change from production to environmental management operations. The 1980 SWEIS examined environmental impacts of operation in the Industrial Area, with the Buffer Zone serving as what was and will continue to be a security buffer so long as nuclear material is located on Site. This draft SWEIS was canceled in early 1997 because data generated during the development of the draft SWEIS in relation to cleanup plans indicates that environmental impacts of cleanup activities will be localized in the Industrial Area and will not present appreciable changes in Site-wide environmental impacts from those associated with Site operations reviewed under the 1980 SWEIS.

Much of the data generated in development of the draft SWEIS is contained in the Rocky Flats Cumulative Impacts Document (CID) which was made available to the public in RFETS reading rooms in June 1997. Although not formally identified as such, publication of the CID did satisfy several of the requirements attendant to a Supplement Analysis (SA). Specifically, the CID analysis did examine environmental impacts associated with changes in the proposed action at RFETS and any significant new circumstances and information relevant to environmental concerns. DOE also made this analysis available to the public, as required for SA's, which addressed public notification of the results of DOE's determination that a new site-wide EIS is not required.

FY 2000 NEPA compliance activities with respect to evaluating the need for a site-wide EIS will include an examination of impacts presented in the CID relative to potential impacts of activities in the RFETS 2006 Closure Plan dated October 1999. This analysis will bring the SA up to date through FY 2000 and will be conducted as part of the annual NEPA Evaluation. It will document whether the environmental impacts of current and planned future activities at the Site are adequately addressed in the CID.

During FY 1999, NEPA reviews were conducted under the functional equivalency approach for the following CERCLA decision documents:

- Building 776/777 Decommissioning Operations Plan (Final)
- Concrete Recycling RFETS Standard Operating Procedure (RSOP) (Final)
- Facility Disposition RSOP (Draft)
- Building Component Removal and Decontamination RSOP (Draft)

Ongoing Environmental Assessments

Currently, there are no environmental assessments in preparation. Three Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact were issued in FY 1999:

- Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact - On-Site Treatment of Low Level Mixed Waste (DOE/EA-1292), March 1999. Estimated total cost: \$37,000.
- Environmental Assessment on Vegetation Management in the Buffer Zone (DOE/EA- 1293), April 1999. Estimated total cost: \$ 28,500.
- Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Response to Comments – Temporary Storage of Transuranic and Transuranic Mixed Waste (DOE/EA-1303), August 1999. Estimated total cost: \$120,000.

The Draft Environmental Assessment - Shipment of Low Level and Low Level Mixed Waste, which was reported in progress in the FY 1999 NEPA Planning Summary, was canceled. Environmental analyses prepared for this EA are being incorporated into the Facility Disposition RSOP.

Upcoming Environmental Assessments

There are no known upcoming environmental assessments for the Site.

Ongoing Environmental Impact Statements

A second Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site was issued in February 1999. No other environmental impact statements are in preparation at the Site.

Upcoming Environmental Impact Statements

The Site has identified one upcoming environmental impact statement:

- Future Use/Land Transfer. This environmental impact statement would address final Site disposition. Preparation of the EIS could begin as early as 2002 and take up to three years, although the timing and choice of specific analyses are still under discussion. While it is anticipated that an environmental impact statement will be the required level of NEPA review for the future use decisions, the level of review for the land transfer could change to an environmental assessment. The level of review will depend upon the degree of potential for future use(s), the potential impacts and the entity or entities to which the parcel(s) would be transferred. Estimated total cost is \$ 1.5 million (based on recent DOE system-wide experience).

An environmental impact statement listed as upcoming in the FY 1999 NEPA Planning Summary involved disposal of LLW and LLMW at the Laidlaw/Safety Kleen facility (Deer Trail) in Colorado. This project has been canceled; accordingly, no NEPA review will be required.